

22 October, 2007

BLM
Alan Hoffmeister
BLM Public Involvement Coordinator
Western Oregon Plan Revisions
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Oregon, 97208

423
RECEIVED

OCT 26 2007

Dear Mr. Hoffmeister:

I'm going to appeal to you. Please use whatever influence you have to extend the deadline period for public input into BLM's planned revisions of Western Oregon forest management practices - for at least sixty days. As you probably know, this is an extraordinarily significant issue, since BLM holds most of the last standing mature forests in Oregon, and the wisdom of their management effects everybody, all who use forests for pleasure, profit, homesteads and clean drinking water - a lot of people here. And these are long-term decisions (10-15 years), a lifetime for a senior citizen like me, and of vast economic import in Oregon where so many people get their income from the forest industries. I do want my grandchildren to see the world through high-growing trees and be able to walk under forest canopy along clear streams. And I would also like them to know how to grow the best timber, selectively harvest it, turn it into beautiful lumber and furniture, right here in Oregon where it should be putting a lot more money in working folk's pockets, not the pockets of overseas investors, corporate clearcutters and foreign interests.

My family and neighbors are immediately, physically, daily effected by these decisions because we live adjacent to Weyerhaeuser land (mostly clearcut in the past ten years). BLM has the only remaining mature forest in the neighborhood, apart from what's privately held. As keepers of small woodlands, riparian wetlands, orchards and pastures we are all directly effected by the forestry practices of our very large corporate neighbors. I am appalled that only thirty days has been allowed for public discussion of what's going to be done with the public's land. What's the rush about? This is just too important for everybody on the ground. I can't even get the information I need to form an informed opinion on the various alternatives the draft plan presents.

We up here along the Moseby Creek watershed have to have at least sixty days to get the information we need to make informed judgements on the issues packaged as four "alternatives" in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The period of public discussion has to begin after early December when we will get some real data and science from the EPA's and Fish and Wildlife's reviews of the BLM proposal, which I understand is due by early December. I have some difficulty with the formatting of these proposals into four cunningly packaged alternatives (no-action, alternatives 1,2, and 3). Why are practices that are all compatible on the ground, in the practice of small-scale forestry - replanting, selective logging, clear-cutting areas for experimental plantings and new groves, maintaining canopy, leaving a lot of it alone, salvaging some but not everything after a burn, maintaining wide riparian zones around streams for future old-growth, not logging extreme slopes at all - packaged so as give something and take something (100 foot riparian zones with no green tree retention, or, as we used to say, 'clear-cutting'). On page xlix of the summary, on a flashpoint issue, Green tree retention presents one with a choice between 6-8 trees per acre - which is not nearly enough to maintain canopy - or nothing at all, clear cuts. This way of opposing compatible options as opposed "alternatives" is clearly political, i.e. not rational.

We should be allowed the time go get informed and take the most desired options from each set of alternative, prioritize them so that all interests can be satisfied some, if not sated. This can only be done in a democracy through public discussion, in which all interests speak, present their case, are heard. This is how false oppositions are overcome - through people talking and listening to each other and changing, informing their minds.

Please don't close off public hearings on this one. This is where a plan meshes with experience and people who are going to live with the consequences of your decisions.

Best wishes,


Eric J. Leed, 75472 Blue Mtn. Lane, Cottage Grove, Oregon, 97424: 541-942-0802